Development of fisheries

1102. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to develop fisheries sector to boost economy;

(b) the details of action plan to encourage fish farming and whether Government propose to give some sort of incentives to fish farmers for the purpose; and

(c) whether the Orissa Government has made a proposal for construction of a Fish Landing Centre at Balugaon at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.35 crores and whether this has been approved and funds sanctioned therefor; if so, the status of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Extending fish farming into new areas, introduction of economically advantageous species and diversification of technology are the main components of Action Plan. A network of 429 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) established in the potential districts in all the States and Union Territory of Pondicherry provide a package of technical, financial and extension support to fish farmers. The incentives/ assistance in the form of subsidy is extended to the fish farmers for a number of development activities such as construciton of ponds, reclamation/renovation of ponds and tanks, first year inputs (fish seed, fish feed, fertilizers, manures etc.), integrated fish farming, running water fish culture, fish seed hatcheries, fish feed units etc.

(c) The proposal of Government of Orissa for construction of a Fish Landing Centre at Balugaon at a total estimated cost of Rs. 235.50 lakh comprising of Rs. 117.75 lakh (50%) as Central share has been approved. The first installment of Central share of Rs. 57.75 lakh has been released to the State Government.

Assistance for upgrading SPTLs

1103. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the State Pesticides

Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) are in bad shape and in no position to detect peticides;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central grants for upgrading these laboratories have also remained under-utilised;

(c) whether this was pointed out in the reports submitted by Central teams sent to States to carry out audit of such laboratories;

(d) whether it is a fact that NABL accreditation is not mandatory for such State run laboratories; and

(e) if so, the details of steps taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. But Government is aware that some State Pesticides Testing Laboratories require strengthening.

(b) In order to set-up/strengthen the facilities for testing of pesticides samples in States, the Central Government had extended financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 6.79 crore for upgradation of State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) to the States during the VIII and IX Five Year Plans. Out of this, Rs. 4.64 crore have already been utilized by the State Governments for the stated purpose. Regarding the balance amounts, where the funds could not yet be utilized revalidation of the grants released to the States have been done on request from the concerned State Governments.

(c) The Technical audit of SPTLs was undertaken with a view to strengthen the SPTLs and the teams have projected the required strengthening in their reports.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has advised States/ UTs to initiate appropriate action for getting NABL accreditation for the SPTLs.

Special Drought Relief

1104. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Minimum Support Price, the